



News Release

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Register Now to Attend Annual Birding Event in Beautiful Northwoods

Ashland County, WI —The sixth annual **Chequamegon Bay Birding & Nature Festival, May 17-19, 2012** will draw casual and avid birders as well as nature lovers to the south shore of Lake Superior to enjoy some of the best birding hot spots and the most breathtaking scenery the Midwest has to offer.

The Chequamegon Bay Area is among the best birding destinations in the Midwest, with a wide variety of habitats hosting nearly 300 bird species. Abundant public lands and extraordinary natural beauty provide visitors with unparalleled nature watching opportunities in this exceptional area of northern Wisconsin.



With over 100 activities to choose from, birders and nature lovers of all skills and ages will find numerous choices at this year's festival including **"exciting new activities" scheduled for 2012!** Exceptional destinations such as the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Whittlesey Creek, Copper Falls State Park and Chequamegon- Nicolet National Forest will showcase spectacular sights for both birders and nature lovers.



Participants in guided field trips will take in the birds, wildlife, and natural beauty of the area through hiking, walking along the beach and kayaking. Other activities include exhibits, educational programs, self-guided field trip opportunities, and numerous expert speakers including this year's keynote speaker, John Bates, renowned northwoods naturalist and author.

Late May is the peak of spring migration and therefore the ideal time to visit the Chequamegon Bay Area. The Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 2 and County Highway G in Ashland, WI, will serve as

the home base for the event. Ashland is located three hours from Minneapolis, MN, four hours from Green Bay, and five hours from Madison. Registration will be open Mid-February. For more information call (800) 284-9484 or visit www.birdandnaturefest.com